

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following paragraph at page 1, line 5:

Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/345,217, now U.S. Patent No. 6,268,142, filed June 30, 1999, the contents of which are specifically incorporated herein.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 9, 11, 22, 23, 24, and 43 as follows:

1. **(Twice Amended)** A method for determining the predisposition of a subject of Northern European ancestry or non-Northern European ancestry to early-onset menopause, comprising detecting at least one allele selected from the group consisting of: IL-1RN (+2018) allele 2; and IL-1RN (+2018) allele 1, wherein detection of an IL-1RN (+2018) allele 2 in a subject of Northern European ancestry is predictive of a predisposition to early-onset menopause and wherein detection of an IL-1RN (+2018) allele 1 in a subject of non-northern European ancestry is predictive of a predisposition to early-onset menopause.

9. **(Twice Amended)** The method of claim 7, wherein said amplification comprises using a first oligonucleotide that overlaps a second oligonucleotide, or a complement thereof, selected from the group consisting of:

5' CTA TCT GAG GAA CAA CCA ACT AGT AGC 3' (SEQ ID No.7);

5' TAG GAC ATT GCA CCT AGG GTT TGT 3' (SEQ ID No.8).

11. **(Amended)** A method for determining a subject's susceptibility to early-onset menopause comprising:

determining whether the subject is of Northern European ancestry or non-Northern European ancestry;
obtaining a nucleic acid sample from said subject; and,
genotyping said nucleic acid;